

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 7, 2006**  
**(approved 3/7/2006)**

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:04 p.m. in Room 436 of the State House, Augusta. Members present were Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant, Representative Richard Brown, Stephan Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Representative Robert Duplessie, Gerry Gay, Alex McPhedran, Geoffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Charles Soltan, David Wacker and Steve Willis. Excused from today's meeting were Jay Bradshaw, Chief Darrel Fournier, Edward Johnston and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent from the meeting included Jack Berry, John Cannon, Art Cleaves and Bill Williams. Attending the meeting as guests of the Fire Commission were Representative Gary Plummer of Windham and a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety; Deputy Chief Ron Green of the Bangor Fire Department; Chief Michael Lajoie of the Lewiston Fire Department; Pam Cahill, lobbyist for the Maine Fire Chiefs; and Richard Wurfel representing the Maine Police and Fire LD 1021 Coalition.

The Fire Commission welcomed their newest member, Gerry Gay of the Sanford Fire Department, representing the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine. Gerry replaces Michael Albert of the Lewiston Fire Department.

***A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Jethro Pease, to accept the meeting minutes of January 9<sup>th</sup>.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring 2006 Blaine House Conference committee distributed the final brochure to members. Maine Municipal Association (MMA) will be mailing the brochures during the week of February 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional space remains for vendors at the Augusta Civic Center and Fire Commission members were encouraged to forward potential vendor names to MMA or the Spring Conference committee. Members suggested to include residential sprinkler vendors.

Members received copies of the revised bylaws by email and were asked to review and make any necessary changes and additions. It was noted that the date was incorrect on the latest draft.

***A motion by Jethro Pease, seconded by Dick Brown, to accept the revised bylaws.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Nominations Committee will present a slate of candidates for Fire Commission officers at the March meeting. Elections will be held at the April meeting.

The Working Group on Residential Sprinklers (WGRS) met prior to the Fire Commission meeting and distributed minutes of the meeting. The WGRS informed Fire Commission members the priority was to raise awareness and to stress the benefits of residential sprinklers. Education and involving other groups to raise awareness were key components and the WGRS suggested organizing an ongoing series of workshops around the state to meet that goal.

### Legislative Updates

**LD 10 “Resolve, To Fund a Study Regarding Health Care for Maine’s Firefighters”** Passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate, LD 10 is currently on the Appropriations table. Fire Commission members were encouraged to contact their state representatives for support for the study.

**LD 1021 “An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters”** Richard Wurfel from the Maine Police and Fire LD 1021 Coalition summarized the current language of the bill and asked the Fire Commission for their support. Mr. Wurfel distributed the latest draft, which included provisions for call and volunteer firefighters. Mr. Wurfel also answered many questions from members regarding coverage-will retirees be covered and who will qualify? Has a funding mechanism been established? Is there a difference between coverage for the police and for firefighters? Members were also informed that the Governor’s Office and Health Policy and Finance continue to work on final language although they still need information from the Maine State Retirement System. Chair Cammack suggested the following proposal and made the following motion.

***A motion by Chair Cammack, seconded by Charlie Soltan, that Richard Wurfel, representing the Maine Police and Fire LD 1021 Coalition, would email a copy of the latest draft language to staff, who would forward the language to Fire Commission members for their review and comment. Within three to four days, staff would set up a conference call with all available members and Mr. Wurfel to ask questions and discuss the draft language. Fire Commission members would decide whether to endorse the language or not.*** The motion passed unanimously.

**LD 1879 “An Act To Enhance Firefighter Safety”** (truss construction) The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee has scheduled a work session on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The truss construction industry, speaking in opposition to the bill at the public hearing, raised a number of issues to be discussed at the work session. Meanwhile, Pam Cahill, lobbyist for the Maine Fire Chiefs, reported agreement has been reached regarding marking the buildings.

New construction type identification would include “T” for wood trusses in the roof and floor, “S” for steel trusses in the roof and floor and “F” for traditional stick built buildings. This proposal would include all new construction for residential buildings of four units and up and for all commercial and industrial buildings. The compromise language also was consistent with the standards of the Life Safety Code.

**LD 1969 "Resolve, To Evaluate the Public Safety Answering Points for the State of Maine"(Emergency)** The Utilities Committee scheduled a public hearing on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Fire Commission members learned the bill would need to be amended to read the Utilities Committee not Natural Resources. Additional amendments include changing the membership of the task force to include a representative from the Maine Police Chiefs, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the Public Advocates Office and E-911. There was some discussion of the role of members – whether to be voting or advisory only.

### Old Business

Chief Cammack reported on the recent Maine Fire Chiefs meeting. Topics included discussion of pending legislation, regional communications centers and the selection of sites for a state training facility in Maine. The Maine Fire Chiefs agreed to the following proposal to begin the site selection process. Maine Municipal Association (MMA) offered to provide the meeting space and make all the arrangements and Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will fund the necessary costs. Proposed is a two daylong retreat on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday and Thursday) with representatives from all areas of the state. A preliminary list of attendees include:

Chief Jethro Pease- Morrill  
Chief William St. Michel- Durham  
Chief John Woulfe- Rumford  
Chief Kevin Guimond- South Portland  
Chief Fred LaMontagne- Portland  
Chief Darrel Fournier-Freeport  
Chief Roy Woods- Caribou  
Chief Robert Lefebvre-Gorham  
Chief Denis Morse-Raymond  
Chief Charles Jordan –Rockland  
Chief Danny Carlow- Calais  
Chief Wayne Werts-Auburn  
Chief Clark Labbe-Brunswick

A facilitator will attend and assist the group reach consensus on recommending a location for the state training facility. Attendees will discuss the four sites that have initially been discussed-Portland, Brunswick, Loring and Vassalboro. Other agenda items include discussion of local training facility sites, plans for the state training facility (for example: size, uses (EMS? WMD?),

discussion of revenue streams, building coalitions and identifying partners for these coalitions. The group will also look at other state training facilities, including New Hampshire, for information.

Fire Commission members continue to attend the community forums. Members were briefed on some of the issues concerning local communities.

The Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs finished their initial schedule of public meetings. Their preliminary report is expected this spring and may include possible legislation. The final report is due in September 2006. It is expected that one recommendation would be that the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) be the lead agency to address the issues of interoperability. The Radio Frequency Coordination group will include a member of the Fire Commission.

The Maine Fire Chiefs hosted a legislative breakfast this morning and it was well attended. The Fire Commission's regular monthly meeting, normally scheduled for the first Monday of the month, was moved to Tuesday to allow members to attend both events. Fire Commission members discussed moving the monthly meeting and the fire caucus meeting to Tuesdays during session to coordinate with the Legislative session. Members also discussed hosting a full breakfast next year as well as smaller "coffee and doughnuts" events.

***A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Jethro Pease, to move the Fire Commission and Fire Caucus meetings to Tuesdays during the 2006 Legislative session.*** The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette  
Staff

### FIRE COMMISSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Caucus	State House	12Noon
Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	State House	1:00pm
Tuesday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Spring Conference	ACC	All day
Tuesday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Legislative Reception	ACC	5-8:00pm
Wednesday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring Conference	ACC	All day
Tuesday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Caucus	State House	12Noon
Tuesday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting **	State House	1pm
Monday, May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm
Monday, June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	Florian Hall	1pm

\*\* Election of Officers